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REVIEWS AND NEW BOOKS

General Works, Theory and Its History

Community. A Sociological Study. Being an Attempt to Set Out the Nature and Fundamental Laws of Social Life. By R. M. MACIVER. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1917. Pp. xv, 437. \$3.75.)

This is easily the most notable book of the year in sociology. It is the more notable because its author, now associate professor of political science in the University of Toronto, confesses in his preface (p. viii): "In an early essay I remarked that there was no definite science of society beyond that contained in such specific studies as economics and politics. That view I now believe to be wholly mistaken, and I hope that this present volume adds one to the many disproofs of it revealed by the recent progress of the subject."

The expectations of the author will not be disappointed by the judgment of his colleagues in the social sciences; for that judgment will undoubtedly be that the book is one of the most important in the field of sociology published during the present decade. It is of especial value to economists and political scientists, because it delimitates, perhaps more clearly than any other work, the field and problems of sociology from those of the special social sciences, while at the same time exhibiting their vital connections.

The book opens with a discussion of the meaning of social fact and social law, of the relations of community and association, and of the place of sociology among the sciences. The author decides that the term "community" expresses best the object which sociology endeavors to study, rather than "society" or "association." He then proceeds to an analysis of "community," showing that it is to be thought of, not as an "organism" or "mind" but as "any area of common life" (pp. 21, 151) shared in some degree by distinct individuals. All social relations are, however, psychical relations, relations of minds. While "community is no greater mind," yet "it is created by that activity of men's minds in which they relate themselves incessantly to one another" (p. 95). What relates them is *interest*. Hence "the interests of men are the source of all social activity, and the changes in their interests are the source of all social evolution" (p. 99). To specific interests there correspond special associations which arise within the community to further those interests. These special associations are the

source of institutions, which are customs that have been sanctioned by the common will. The association is the living thing; the institution is but a form *instituted*, established, by the will of the community to serve some particular interest. Together they make up the structure of community.

The laws of the development of community are taken up and discussed in the final section (book III) of the work. This is the most important and constructive part of the work. After showing that the popular idea that communities pass through a regular cycle of growth, maturity, decay, and death is without scientific foundation, the author proceeds to discuss what he considers the three primary laws of communal development. The first is that "socialization and individualization are the two sides of a single process" (p. 214); or in other words, "the differentiation of community is relative to the growth of personality in social individuals" (p. 226). From this law many important generalizations flow regarding both community and personality. For example, real opposition between the interests of the individual and of the community, it becomes evident, is pathological, not normal. The second law is that "the development of community involves the gradual transformation of conflicting and parallel like interests into concordant like interests through the establishment of secondary common interests" (p. 327). In other words, the development of social life means a passage from methods of direct antagonism and of competition to methods of coöperation, hence a correlation between socialization and the principle of communal economy. Under this law the economic aspects of the social life receive extended consideration. The third law is the law of the correlation of socialization and the control of environment, in accordance with the general law that the higher the life "the less is it directly modified by the changes within its physical environment and the more does it modify that environment and its changes into conformity to its own purposes" (p. 383). From this standpoint the relations of community and environment are carefully considered.

It is impossible to outline in a satisfactory manner the argument of a book so fertile in ideas. The only fair thing that the reviewer can do is to urge all interested in social science to read the book. It is far easier, however, to criticise the work, and in certain respects it deserves criticism. It is doubtful, for example, if the author has rendered sociology a service by adding another

terminology to the many already in existence. It is not clear that the term "community" expresses better the subject-matter of sociology than such terms as "society" or "social life," as equal ambiguity attaches to its use. The use of "association" in the narrow sense of specialized, *purposive* association is arbitrary, and out of harmony with the general usage among sociologists, among whom it is regularly employed to include all forms of social life, and so as nearly synonymous with "social process." Again, it is unfortunate that Professor MacIver uses so exclusively in his sociological analysis subjective terms, such as "interests," "values," "purposes." While this is also the practice of many sociological and economic writers, unquestionably the trend of modern science is to substitute for such subjective terms objective terms wherever it is possible to do so. Finally, Professor MacIver's attempt to make psychology purely a subjective science, the science of "the knower" (p. 60), and thereby divorce the social sciences quite entirely from it, will scarcely meet with approval on the part either of psychologists or of a large number of sociologists. These are, however, on the whole, minor defects in a work whose substantial value nearly all students of the social sciences will heartily recognize.

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The Physical Basis of Society. By CARL KELSEY. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1916. Pp. xviii, 406. \$2.00.)

Outline of Applied Sociology. By HENRY PRATT FAIRCHILD. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1916. Pp. x, 353. \$1.75.)

Not so much a work on sociology as a collection of the data of sociology is the volume by Professor Kelsey. The author has not so much attempted to put out an original piece of investigation or a piece of close abstract reasoning within the traditional field of sociology as to assemble in the eleven chapters of his book a mass of illustrative and convincing data preliminary to the broader field of sociology. Everywhere he is primarily concerned in his viewpoint with the conditions of social existence and social development. He begins with the most objective and most indirect influences which operate upon man and his institutions—the physical conditions of the earth—and proceeds through a consideration of the struggle for existence and mutual aid, man's control over